

STATE OF COLORADO

John W. Hickenlooper, Governor
Larry Wolk, MD, MSPH
Executive Director and Chief Medical Officer

Dedicated to protecting and improving the health and environment of the people of Colorado

4300 Cherry Creek Dr. S.
Denver, Colorado 80246-1530
Phone (303) 692-2000
Located in Glendale, Colorado
www.colorado.gov/cdphe



Colorado Department
of Public Health
and Environment

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| PROGRAM: | RETAIL FOOD |
| EFFECTIVE REGULATION: | <i>Colorado Retail Food Establishment Rules and Regulations, July 1, 2013</i> |
| INTERPRETIVE MEMO NO.: 14-03 | |
| DATE: | January 1, 2014 |
| SUBJECT: | Allowable Quaternary Ammonia (QA) Sanitizer Concentration Levels |

Several questions have been raised regarding the requirements for allowable concentration levels of Quaternary Ammonia (QA) compounds being utilized as sanitizers in retail food establishment. This *interpretation* is applicable to all QA compounds used in retail food establishments as sanitizers.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency allows the use of Quaternary Ammonium Compounds, di-n-alkyl (C₈₋₁₀) dimethyl ammonium chloride, to be used in public eating places, dairy processing equipment, and food-processing equipment and utensils by increasing the allowable use solution concentration of quaternary compounds. This rule specifically allows the concentration of all quaternary chemicals in solution up to a maximum concentration of 400 parts per million (ppm) of active quaternary compound.

Manufacturers' labeled use instructions must be followed when preparing the proper concentration of QA sanitizing products. For example, the manufacturer's labeled use instructions for Ecolab Oasis 146 Multi-Quat state that the product shall be prepared between 150 to 400 ppm when used in retail food establishments. Using this product within this specified range is considered an approved concentration for sanitizing food contact surfaces.

All previous interpretive memoranda issued pertaining to this subject are hereby superseded as of the effective date above.

Jeff Lawrence, Director
Division of Environmental Health and Sustainability